

Planning processes delay new Fareham local plan

FAREHAM councillors and officers have been working on the replacement for the current local plan for some time.

The previous plan was adopted in June 2000 and will be replaced by a new plan called the Local Development Framework (LDF).

Work has been held up because Fareham's plan must tie in with the South East Plan and this has only just been through its mandatory inspection process.

Fortunately, Fareham's input to the South East Plan was accepted by the inspectors and, provided that the Government – who can make changes to the plan – agree with the inspectors' report, the planning process can go ahead.

The Government will make its decision sometime between this December and March next year.

Final adoption of the plan is not scheduled until mid 2011.

Councillor David Swanbrow, who is the Executive Member responsible for putting the new plan together, said:

"Once we have the go-ahead we will consult people on the plan every step of the way."

Nicked! Police crackdown on under-age drinkers



Pc Geoff Tarvin parades a huge pile of cans, bottles and cartons of booze, mostly confiscated from juveniles in on-going operations against under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour.

DOZENS of cans and bottles of booze have been confiscated by police in a borough-wide operation against under-age drinkers and outlets supplying them.

Officers recently mounted Operation Dorothy to get the message of zero tolerance across to youngsters, parents and shopkeepers.

It seems to be paying dividends, although police believe it may have driven some illegal drinking 'underground'.

The operation was carried out by officers, community support officers and special constables from Safer Neighbourhood Teams covering Fareham and Park Gate areas, who seized alcohol from juveniles and adults acting in an anti-social manner.

At the end of the four-week operation, their haul amounted to 170 cans of lager, 169 bottles of beer, half a bottle of whisky, a litre of vodka and a bottle of brandy.

But instead of pouring it down the drain, the police gave the drinks to Fareham Lions Club, who raffled it and gave the proceeds to local charities.

The operation was part of the Designated Public Places Order created in partnership with Fareham Borough Council to combat drink-related crime.

Police have powers to stop street drinking, seize alcohol where appropriate and issue fixed penalty

notices to the culprits.

Pc Dave Coleman said 32 more cans of lager were confiscated and a group of 20 youths moved on from Yew Tree Drive area in Whiteley during the first week of October.

Sgt Pat Dawson, in charge of the first sting in June after the order was extended borough-wide, said police were pleased with the results of the on-going operation and with the new powers to deal with drink related anti-social behaviour.

"Usually once we catch an under-age person we don't see them again. We take the alcohol and the parents get a letter. On a number of occasions we have called on parents."

There had been input into schools and youth clubs where posters were displayed, but it was often over 18s who bought and supplied alcohol to juveniles.

Councillor Nick Walker said police had reported a fall in public drinking.

"In the same report they say that in the first 6 months this year they carried out 207 test purchases on licensed premises in South Hampshire and caught 50 law breakers, but none in Fareham area.

"However, a few were caught in Fareham in 2006 'stings' and cases are on-going.

"Premises caught more than twice are likely to find the police calling for a review of their licence," he said.

WARD NEWS BRIEFS

New lamps for old
Streetlamp columns are being replaced on Cornaway Lane as new standards from the manufacturer become available.

Bunking off
The number of missed sessions in Hampshire secondary schools has increased by 0.29% to 1.49%.

For primary schools the figures are Hampshire 0.33% (up 0.04%).

M27 widening
The contract to construct two climbing lanes on the M27 has been awarded to Costain.

Work is due to start in January 2008 and will last about 10 months.

Steps will be taken to minimise traffic delays, but it is inevitable that some will occur.

There will be an exhibition in late autumn for residents to discuss the project and to introduce the contractors' public liaison officer.

Poor responses
Ambulance emergency response times are deteriorating in Hampshire.

And county councillors are demanding to know why.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is investigating.

Arts centre
Ashcroft Arts Centre will not be closing, although there will be changes.

The County Council promised one of the south's top performing arts venues would stay open.

Cranleigh's green fields saved from developers

RESIDENTS around Cranleigh Road area of Portchester will heave sighs of relief that they will be protected from development for many years.

Fareham Council persuaded the government to accept its 'Saved Policies' application.

It means the Council can retain almost all its policies, including Local Gaps, and with its five-year land supply in place this should ensure developers do not get their diggers into the Cranleigh Road area.

Portchester Councillor Nick Walker said: "Residents had been concerned over rumours that the Local Gaps Policy was almost certain to be dropped as the Borough Council moves towards replacing the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review June



Staying green: Nick Walker (pictured) is pleased open space around Cranleigh Avenue is safe.

2000 with the new Local Development Framework.

"This was of particular concern to residents surrounding the land at Cranleigh Road which was recently saved from development.

"There were fears that the deletion of the Local Gaps Policy would lead to a further application for the development of this land."

Traffic survey addresses some residents' fears



A SURVEY was carried out at Dore Avenue due to concerns about traffic and parking, including the crematorium.

It showed that there had been 33 accidents which resulted in injury, 7 of which were serious and a number of

actions were taken to improve traffic control.

Pedestrian islands proposed by Councillor Nick Walker are scheduled to be built soon.

Parking is still a problem in some parts, particularly on the Buriton bend and on both sides of the road in the Weyhill-Steep Close stretch of road.



New Portchester 'pong' getting up residents' noses

A NASTY smell is wafting over Downend district and getting up residents' noses.

Numerous complaints have reached Portchester Councillor Nick Walker recently from people suffering from smells from the Downend composter.

During the last month in particular Fareham Council has received a significant rise in the number of complaints.

A Liaison Panel estab-

lished and chaired by Hampshire County Council is seeking ways to deal with the problem.

Councillor Walker said: "Trials are taking place to try to address the problem of the compost turning anaerobic which when moved can give rise to an odour.

"All complaints are recorded by Environmental Health and wherever possible an officer visits the residential area to assess

the odour and usually goes to the site to see what is going on.

"This occurs where possible in and outside of normal office hours. Similarly, complaints received by the Environment Agency are logged and visits made."

Officers are looking at options that could be progressed by the company, while responding to complaints and gathering evidence that could support any action the Council

Council puts £100,000 into CATS' kitty for initiatives

FAREHAM Council has set aside £100,000 to fund neighbourhood initiatives, residents were told when the five Community Action Teams (CATS) met in September.

Each CAT can bid for resources to fund projects in their area and £30,000 has been earmarked from the fund for clean and tidy neighbourhood ideas.

Councillor Nick Walker said the Portchester meeting at the Parish Hall was well attended.

Presentations by the Council and police were well received and topics raised included litter, speeding vehicles and grass cutting.

The police spoke to residents afterwards about specific matters.

Residents also had the chance to complete the 'Act Now' cards distributed during meetings.

The Council has a target of 5 working days to confirm action taken or being taken.

Alternatively, people can email comps@fareham.gov.uk.

Venues and times of the January meetings will be announced.

Meeting the men who keep borough clean



COUNCILLORS toured the depot at Broadcut to see how staff keep the borough clean and tidy.

They saw demonstrations of the new waste collecting vehicles and grass cutting machines and learned about staff training.

Councillor Ernest Crouch (pictured) said: "Fareham is served by dedicated waste operatives who do a splendid job and have a very good track record in meeting their targets."

Family facility boost for crumbling Portchester Community Centre

A MUCH-NEEDED family facility is to be added to ageing Portchester Community Centre.

The County Council earmarked resources for the new Children's Centre extension, despite the 45-year-old building crumbling towards the end of its life.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said the extension had been on a knife edge due to the Community Association's lease expiring in 2011.

"There is also a great deal of internal maintenance and interior repair that needs to be done – a responsibility of the Association – before the County is willing to build an extension aimed at a safe environment for children.

"The present trustees have put the Association's finances on a sound footing but do not have the money to carry out the necessary work," he said.

Councillor Crouch persuaded the Borough's Executive to agree to the expenditure of £36,000 for the repairs and to extend the lease until the programme for modernisation of all community buildings had been completed in 2012.



Crumbling: Centre manager Sarah Moss shows Councillor Crouch where it's coming apart.

He assured them that the Community Centre was vital and now had a vitality which the Children's Centre could only improve; the proposal represented extremely good value for money.

Executive members agreed to both the cash and the lease so that the planned Children's Centre can go ahead.

If you don't like it you'll still have to hump it!

THOUGHTLESS drivers have been giving pedestrians the hump at the junction of Birdwood Grove and Shearwater Avenue.

Now the motorists have a real one to contend with.

Councillor Ernest Crouch said there had been several near accidents to dog-walkers and joggers using the path from the bottom of Birdwood Grove to enjoy the amenities of Cams and Wicor fields.

But other visitors to the area come by car through Shearwater Avenue which is the only access to the car park.

Cars crossing the footpath at speed are dangerous for pedestrians.

Councillor Crouch requested a 'sleeping policeman' that has now being constructed, along with improved signage so that the crossing will be safer for all.

PORTCHESTER CONSERVATIVES

We are very active with social and political events and membership drives. If you would like further details, to join us, or to help in any way such as distribution of *In Touch* newsletters in your road, please contact your ward councillors.

ANY PROBLEMS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Please write the details here and give the exact location

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Your name

Address

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Please cut this out and post it or email or phone your councillors who are listed here.

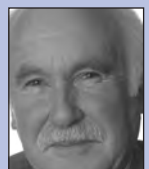
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Our man in Westminster



**By Mark Hoban
MP for Fareham**

WE SEEM to spend a lot of time talking about house prices. Property programmes on TV are very popular. Statistics on house prices are closely scrutinised. Houses have a big impact upon our finances too!

In our community, young people face a double challenge: not only is the cost of moving high, but increasing house prices and recent increases in interest rates push mortgage payments up. Because I believe as many people as possible should be given the chance to own their own home, I think it is right to help especially those people who are buying their own home for the first time. That's why we announced our plan to scrap stamp duty for first time buyers. This will save up to £2,500 depending on the size of a property and provide a welcome boost for young people in our community. This will give first time buyers the chance to step on to the housing ladder.

Whilst rising house prices have made it harder for people to buy their first home, it means that more and more people are pushed into the inheritance tax net too.

Originally, inheritance taxes were meant to be a tax on the wealthy. Yet increasingly, people living in normal family homes are being caught by it through no fault of their own. Since 2000, the amount of money collected through inheritance tax has gone up by 70%. I don't think inheritance tax should penalise people who have done the right thing by buying a home of their own and putting a little bit away for a rainy day. That's why we will raise the inheritance tax threshold so now only millionaires pay the tax. Our message is that we will back those people who do the right thing, so that their children don't end up paying a big tax bill.

The Conservative Party has always backed those who want to get on in life and scrapping stamp duty for most first time buyers and lifting the inheritance tax thresholds rewards those who have aspirations for themselves and their families.

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The Fareham 'feel-good' factor reaches record high

IT'S A GREAT place to live, say an overwhelming majority of Fareham people.

Under the Conservative administration not only can you expect to live longer in the borough, but also enjoy cleaner streets and a low crime rate.

The town's feel-good factors were acclaimed in the 2007 Residents' Survey in which people were asked how satisfied they were, taking everything into account, that Fareham is a prosperous, safe and attractive place to live and work.

The survey was mailed to 4,000 households selected at random.

There were 928 responses returned and the data has been entered into the Council's management information system and analysed.

A staggering 95% (94% in 2006) were satisfied or fairly satisfied and 89% said they were very or fairly satisfied with the way the Conservative Council runs the borough and provides services - the same figure as last year. Findings from other parts of the survey also showed high satisfaction levels:

- Shopping** – 80% happy with general facilities, 87% with the town centre.
- Environment** – 90% satisfaction.
- Refuse** – 69% chose fortnightly collections, rather than pay more council tax for weekly collections.
- Crime** – 98% feel safe in their neighbourhoods in daytime, 72% after dark (up 5%).
- Council** – 87% of those who contacted the Council in the past year were happy with the



History: With such treasures as Portchester Castle on the doorstep Fareham has so much to offer.

way they were dealt with.

However, there are still improvements that residents want to see, with traffic congestion and street repairs topping the list.

But these are the responsibility of the County Council and Fareham's Executive promised to work with the Highway Authority on these issues.

Council Executive Leader Seán Woodward said: "I am delighted both at the good response and the confirmation that the priorities the Council is pursuing are also those of our residents."

"We are currently reviewing all our community facilities and activities for teenagers are an important strand of that review.

"We continue to work with the police and community safety officers to reduce the low level crime and anti-social behaviour experienced in some areas."

Fareham tops Hampshire recycling league

FAREHAM is top of the league in Hampshire for recycling which is now running at 46% and well on the road towards the next Government target of 50% in 2010.

Latest figures show an increase of 24% since alternate bin collections were introduced in 2005.

A review of the glass recycling service is being undertaken and it is unlikely that a kerbside collection service will be provided, but there will be significantly more, conveniently sited 'bring banks'.

Most residents are now maximising use of the blue-top bin and using the green waste collection service.

A Government grant has

been received to provide an advisory service on all aspects of recycling and to help reduce contamination in the recycling bins.

Fareham is the only council not to make an extra charge for collecting green waste although from October there will be a charge of £5 for replacement sacks.

The possibility of providing a replacement sack service for community centres etc at a nominal charge is being examined. Neighbouring councils charge up to £25 for a green waste sack and about £1 for each emptying.

The Council, with about 40,000 eligible homes, has issued over 140,000 green sacks over the past 18

months. Each household can have up to 3 sacks emptied.

The Council is saving no money and any savings are being ploughed back into the green waste collection service and the trial schemes.

All Fareham's residual waste is incinerated; none goes to landfill. The incinerator produces enough energy to heat/light 30,000 homes.

Available to you – 1 x 240 litre green top bin (for those with a 140 litre), 2 x 240 litre blue top bins (for recycling) and up to 3 green sacks.

Residents with specific problems can phone 01329 824387 or 824389 for advice.

In Touch is published by Portchester Conservatives, Old Mill House, Hospital Lane, Portchester PO16 9LT and printed by Chameleon Print, Unit 3, Palmerston Business Park, Newgate Lane, Fareham PO14 1DJ.